

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FEA-01 COME-00 IO-10 SAM-01

DHA-02 ORM-02 EUR-12 /108 W
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R 170555Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1101

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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TAGS: PFOR PINT QA

SUBJ: AMIR OF QATAR'S STATE OF STATE SPEECH

REF: DOHA 1393

1. SUMMARY: AMIR OF QATAR'S ANNUAL "STATE OF THE STATE" SPEECH
EXTOLLED BENEFITS OF GRADUAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, REVIEWED
INTERNAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND OUTLINED GOQ VIEWS ON ITS
RELATIONS IN ARAB, ISLAMIC AND INTERNATIONAL SPHERES. SPEECH
WAS REITERATION OF STANDARD THEMES. END SUMMARY

2. ON DEC 16, AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL
THANI, DELIVERED HIS ANNUAL "STATE OF STATE" SPEECH. OCCASION
WAS YEARLY OPENING OF ADVISORY COUNCIL SESSION. GOQ MAKES MUCH
OF EVENT, WITH HONOR GUARD, PRESENCE OF CABINET AND DIPLOMATIC
CORPS, ETC. IT IS THE ONLY TIME THE AMIR ACTUALLY GIVES A
SEMI-PUBLIC ADDRESS AND IT IS TELEVISED LIVE.

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3. AMIR DEVOTED FIRST PORTION OF SPEECH TO REMARKS ON BENEFITS OF GRADUAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. HE STRESSED THAT QATAR SHOULD FOLLOW ITS OWN TRADITIONS IN POLITICAL EVOLUTION AND AVOID IMPORTS ALIEN TO LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES. HE TOOK OCCASION TO PRAISE WORK OF ADVISORY COUNCIL, WHICH HE NOTED WAS A "FIRST" IN QATAR'S GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE SAID THAT "SUCCESS" OF ADVISORY COUNCIL EXPERIMENT NOW WARRANTED A FURTHER STEP AND THIS HAD BEEN TAKEN BY EXPANSION OF COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND POWERS. AMIR OBSERVED THAT COUNCIL NOW HAD BROADER OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON AFFAIRS OF STATE AND THEREBY TO CONTRIBUTE MORE TO ENHANCEMENT OF PROSPERITY AND WELFARE OF COUNTRY.

4. AMIR THEN REVIEWED INTERNAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PAST YEAR. HE POINTED TO EXPANDED EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICE FACILITIES AS IMPLEMENTING GOQ'S POLICY OF DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, HE RECALLED GOQ'S DECLARATION IN DECEMBER 1974 THAT IT WOULD BE 100 PERCENT OWNER OF ITS PETROLEUM AND GAS RESOURCES. AMIR ALSO MENTIONED GOVERNMENT PROJECTS IN AGRICULTURE AND HEAVY AND LIGHT INDUSTRY DESIGNED TO DIVERSIFY COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC BASE.

5. ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AMIR COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ARAB WORLD -- ARAB SOLIDARITY WAS MOST IMPORTANT WEAPON IN ACHIEVING GOALS OF ARAB NATION. QATAR FULLY SUPPORTED STRUGGLE OF ARAB BROTHERS IN RESTORING OCCUPIED LAND, ESPECIALLY JERUSALEM. PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO THEIR OWN HOMELAND AND PLO'S ROLE AS SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS ALSO HAD GOQ'S FULL SUPPORT. RE LEBANON, HOPE WAS EXPRESSED THAT "MASSACRE" WOULD CEASE AND NATIONAL UNITY WOULD BE RESTORED.

(B) ISLAMIC WORLD -- ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY WAS KEY TO INSURING THAT MORAL, HUMAN AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF MUSLIM COUNTRIES WOULD PLAY LEADERSHIP ROLE IN INSURING WORLD PEACE.

(C) GENERAL INTERNATIONAL -- ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES OF UN ON HUMAN RIGHTS, SELF-DETERMINATION, CONTROL OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM AND IMPERIALISM WERE HOPE OF HUMANITY. GOQ SOUGHT GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL PEACE-LOVING STATES
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AND HAD SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS FELLOW NONALIGNED EXEITUSIES. STRENGTHENING OF AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION MOST DESIRABLE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE. EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE INDICATED COMPATIBILITY OF ARAB RESOURCES AND EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC KNOW-HOW, AND RECENT ABU DHABI EURO-ARAB SESSION HAD ESTABLISHED PROMISING PRELIMINARY GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER TALKS.

6. COMMENT: AMIR'S ADDRESS WAS REITERATION OF STANDARD THEMES HE ARTICULATES WHEN SPEAKING FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD. ON INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, HIS REMARKS ON EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP AND POWERS OF ADVISORY COUNCIL CLEARLY INTENDED TO HIGHLIGHT THIS AS EXAMPLE OF POLITICAL GRADUALISM AT WORK.
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